



Organized by  
**香港足球總會**  
 Hong Kong Football Association



Major partner  
 香港賽馬會慈善信託基金  
 The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust  
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Subvented by  
 康樂及文化事務署  
 Leisure and Cultural  
 Services Department

**Hong Kong Football Association**  
**2020-2021 Jockey Club Youth Football League**  
**Competition Regulation**  
 (Updated on 16 October 2020)

**Name and Nature of the League**

1. The competition shall be officially called the “Jockey Club Youth Football League”. Hong Kong Football Association (hereinafter referred to as the “HKFA”) reserves the right to add the name of the Title Sponsor or its product name. The League comprise the following groups:

Under-18 (for persons born on or after 1 January, 2003);  
 Under-16 (for persons born on or after 1 January, 2005);  
 Under-15 (for persons born on or after 1 January, 2006);  
 Under-14 (for persons born on or after 1 January, 2007);  
 Under-13 (for persons born from 1 January, 2008 to 31 December, 2011)

The Jockey Club Youth Football League aimed at providing more opportunities for young footballers, enhance football skills, promote sports spirit and facilitate friendships.

**Management of the League**

2. The League is organized by HKFA, The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust as the major partner and subvented by Leisure and Cultural Services Department.
3. HKFA reserves the right to alter or modify the Rules and Regulations of the League if necessary.
4. The League shall comply with the Laws of the Game as laid down by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) (except for return substitution).

**Commercial Rights**

5. HKFA is the original owner of all the rights emanating from the League. These rights include, among others, all kinds of financial rights, audiovisual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights, A-Boards allocation and incorporeal rights as well as rights arising under copyright law whether currently existing or created in the future subject to any provision as set forth in specific regulations.

**Application**

6. District teams under the Jockey Club Youth Football Development Program – Training Scheme are invited to join the competition. HKFA members, other football associations and legally registered clubs, companies, institutions and organizations may file an application. The applications of HKFA member will be prioritized. The League reserves the right to reject any application by any member or non-member without any reason.

Applying club/team must complete the application form designated by the League within the application period and deliver the completed application form together with the **application fee HK\$1,500** and **deposit HK\$1,000** to HKFA. The League will not consider any application to which either the registration fee or the deposit is not attached.

The League is open for registration. If more than thirty two (32) teams (forty (40) teams for U13) applied for a particular group, the priority will be given in the following order:

- 1) Teams participated in Youth League 2019-2020;  
(Only applicable to the team's original age group)
- 2) Eighteen (18) district teams;
- 3) Premier League members
- 4) First Division members;
- 5) Second Division members;
- 6) Third Division members;
- 7) Other members (in order of affiliated member > non-voting member); and
- 8) Other organizations (The team shall be organized by a school, registered entity or registered company and shall submit a copy of corporate registration certificate for application.)

In case of one or more teams falling into any of the categories from 2) to 8) listed above, HKFA will decide the priority order based on the order of application.

7. More than one (1) team (two (2) teams as maximum) could be participated in U18 Group this year.  
After accepting the participating teams which have been participated in 2019-20, HKFA would give priority to the second team, the priority of selection for the remaining number of the second team: 18 district teams > First Division members > Second Division members > Third Division members > Other members (affiliated members> non-voting member) > Other organizations (The team shall be organized by a school, registered entity or registered company and shall submit a copy of corporate registration certificate for application). In order to protect our member clubs, the two participating teams from a same member club will not be arranged in the same group, and this will be arranged in the lot-drawing ceremony (details will be announced later).

### **Match Organizations**

8. The League shall be held in accordance with this Regulation.
9. The League is held between **December 2020 and July 2021**. (The League commence and end date may be delayed or extended depends on the weather condition or special reasons.)
10. Duration of the competition in each Group is as follows:

<u>U18 and U16</u>	- 90-minutes, divided into two halves, 45-minutes for each half
<u>U15</u>	- 80-minutes, divided into two halves, 40-minutes for each half
<u>U14 and U13</u>	
League A	- 75-minutes, divided into three sessions, 25-minutes for each session
League B, C, D & E	- 60-minutes, divided into three sessions, 20-minutes for each session
FA Cup	- 60-minutes, divided into three sessions, 20-minutes for each session

11. Cooling break will be adopted if the Hong Kong Observatory hoisted the Very Hot Weather Warning thirty (30) minutes before the kick off. Details please refer to the Attachment 1 “Competition Guideline under Very Hot Weather”.
12. A match shall not commence or continue if the number of players of either team is less than seven (7) upon the scheduled kickoff time or during the match.
13. Substitution arrangements are as follows:

U18:

Each team may select eleven (11) Starting Players from the team list (Form B) and thirteen (13) Substitute Players at most prior to commencement of the match. **During the match, five (5) players (including the goalkeeper) at most on each team are allowed to be substituted.** The player being substituted could not participate in the rest of the match.

U16 and U15:

Each team may select eleven (11) Starting Players from the team list (Form B) and eleven (11) Substitute Players at most prior to commencement of the match. **During the match, seven (7) players (including the goalkeeper) at most on each team are allowed to be substituted.** The player being substituted could not participate in the rest of the match.

U14 and U13:

Before the match starts, teams should select all qualified players from the team list (Form B) who have been present and pick eleven (11) Starting Players for the first session. **During the first session, teams are not allowed to make any substitution unless there are injuries’ of players or goalkeeper is being sent off.**

Teams should select eleven (11) players to participate in the second session from the team list (Form B) before the second session starts. **Players who didn’t participate in the first session must be included in this session. Teams are not allowed to make any substitution unless there are injuries’ of players or goalkeeper is being sent off in this session.**

Teams should select eleven (11) players to participate in the third session from the team list (Form B) before the third session starts. Teams can randomly select eleven (11) players to play in this session from the team list (Form B). **During the third session, each team may substitute players twice, for each substitution, three (3) players (including the goalkeeper) at most are allowed to be substituted. The player being substituted could participate again in the rest of the match.**

**The above substitution arrangements aim at enhancing opportunities and playtime of youth players. Any substitutions violated the regulations or behaviors from team officials found to be deprived players’ playing opportunities by HKFA or related officials (including any individual involving the Club, staff member of HKFA, Match Review Panel of HKFA and/or any other individual who holds a job title with HKFA), including but not limited to encouragement of defrauding injury, encouragement of absence towards youth players, investigation will be adopted by HKFA and be referred to Disciplinary Committee.**

The verification procedure of players and equipment of the above-mentioned Groups shall be implemented as follows:

U18, U16 and U15

Prior to commencement of the match, referee will check the equipment of player whose name is on the starting list, and stamped on the back of the hand of player for identification.

If a player fails to provide his equipment for inspection prior to commencement of the first half,

the player is not allowed to take part in the first half of the match. The player may have the inspection procedure done during the half time break. The referee and the duty officer may check the identity of late arrival player and inspect his equipment during the half time break, and then stamped on the back of his hand for identification. If a player fails to provide his equipment for inspection prior to commencement of the second half, the player is not allowed to take part in the match.

If it is necessary to change a player, the team must submit the completed player substitution form to the assistant referee, and the assistant referee will check and stamped on the player's hand for verification. The team does not have to submit the player's registration card for photo verification during substitution of player.

#### U13 and U14

Prior to commencement of the match, referee will check the equipment of player whose name is on the starting list, and stamped on the back of the hand of player for identification.

If a player fails to provide his equipment for inspection prior to commencement of the first session, the player is not allowed to take part in the first session of the match. The player may have the inspection procedure done during the time break before the second session. The referee and the duty officer may check the identity of late arrival player and inspect his equipment during the time break, and then stamped on the back of his hand for identification. If a player fails to provide his equipment for inspection prior to commencement of the second session, the player is not allowed to take part in the second session. The referee and the duty officer may check the identity of late arrival player and inspect his equipment during the time break, and then stamped on the back of his hand for identification. If a player fails to provide his equipment for inspection prior to commencement of the third session, the player is not allowed to take part in the third session.

If it is necessary to change a player, the assistant referee will check and stamped on the player's hand for verification. The team does not have to submit the player's registration card for photo verification during substitution of player.

14. The League will be conducted in two stages. There will be no promotion/relegation system this year.

#### First Stage – Group and League Matches

##### Group

For U13 and U14 age group, it will be converted to a day league format to determine the eligibility for participation in League A, B, C, D and E. Please refer to [Attachment 2] for details.

Teams playing in U15, U16 and U18 are divided into eight (8) groups (from Group A to Group H) by lot drawing. Each group comprises of four (4) teams. A total of thirty-two (32) teams shall play under the single round robin system (to ensure fairness, the two participating teams from the same member club will not be arranged in the same group). Each team will be informed of the date of lot drawing in advance. First ranked team of each group shall play in League - Group A, second ranked team of each group shall play in League B, and the rest of the team shall play in League C, D or E (by lot drawing).

##### League A

Teams in Group A shall play under **double round robin system** to determine the ranking.

##### League B, C, D & E

Teams in Group B to E shall play under the **single round robin system** to determine the ranking.

Please refer to **article 16 to 18** for details of ranking determination of group stage and league

stage matches.

### Second Stage – FA Cup

Due to the pandemic situation, teams shall join the FA Cup optionally, no penalty will be given to teams who are not participating. If a team fail to take part in the tournament after the designated application for the FA Cup, disciplinary actions would be taken according to Art. 20.

Teams shall participate in FA Cup which is conducted in single knockout system. Seed teams and lot drawing will determine the team position of first round.

When any of the competitions in FA Cup ends in a tie, a penalty shoot-out and a penalty kick as defined in the Laws of the Game will be applied to determine the winner of the competition.

Note 1: In Stage 1, if a team withdraws after entering or in the middle of a competition, the matter shall be considered by the Disciplinary Committee as mentioned in Article 20, all its matches would be cancelled and the record of the matches expunged.

Note 2: In Stage 2, if a team withdraws after entering or in the middle of a competition, the matter shall be considered by the Disciplinary Committee as mentioned in Article 20, the team shall lose by 0:3 and other punishment. If a team is found to have violated the rules in the earlier round after being promoted and completed the next round, the relevant matters will be handled by the Disciplinary Committee, but the completed results of the team in the earlier round will not be overturned.

### **Modification of Competition System**

15. The League has the right to change or alter the competition system based on the number of participating teams. The League reserves the right to modify the competition system if necessary.

### **Ranking System**

16. The Competition shall be played in league format. The winner of a match shall be awarded three (3) points. Each team participating in a match which ends in a draw shall be awarded one (1) point.
17. Participating teams' final positions in the league table shall be determined by the number of points obtained by their respective playing team in the Competition, the team having obtained the highest number of points being at the top of the table and the team having obtained the lowest number of points being at the bottom.
18. If any two (2) or more playing teams have obtained the same number of points, the positions of the teams concern shall be determined as follows by order of priority:
  - 1) number of points obtained in the matches of the Competition between/among the teams concerned, higher or highest placed team shall be the team with the higher or highest number of points;
  - 2) goal difference, that is to say, the difference between the total number of goal scored by and against a team in the matches of the Competition between/among the teams concerned, and higher or highest placed team shall be the team with the higher or highest goal difference;
  - 3) number of goals scored by a team in the matches of the Competition between/among the teams concerned, and higher or highest placed team shall be the team with more or most goals scored;
  - 4) if, after having applied Art. 17.1 to 17.3, playing teams still have an equal ranking, Art. 17.1 to 17.3 are reapplied exclusively to the matches between the playing teams in question

- to determine their final rankings. If this procedure does not lead to a decision, Art. 17.5 to 17.8 apply;
- 5) goal difference, that is to say, the difference between the total number of goal scored by and against a team in all its matches of the Competition, and higher or highest placed team shall be the team with the higher or highest goal difference;
  - 6) number of goals scored by a team in all its matches of the Competition, and higher or highest placed team shall be the team with more or most goals scored;
  - 7) least number of yellow and red cards. Each team will receive points for receiving red and yellow cards as indicated below:
    - i. Each yellow card (1 point)
    - ii. Each red card as a consequence of two yellow cards (3 points)
    - iii. Each direct red card (3 points)
    - iv. Each yellow card followed by a direct red card (4 points)
 The team receiving the least number of points will be ranked the highest.
  - 8) drawing of lots.

### **Competition Venue and Date**

19. HKFA is responsible for competition venue arrangement. Competitions will be played on grass field or artificial turf field designated as the competition venue.
20. Competition fixtures will be sent to each team prior to the commencement of the competition. All matches must be played as scheduled. If any team fails to comply with the rule, HKFA will impose disciplinary action on the violating team, including a fine, deduction of the score obtained in the competition, and deduction of the points acquired in the Division. If any team not only fails to take part in a scheduled match, but also found with any of the following situations, including (but not limited to) withdrawals from the league, or does not report for a match or refuses to continue a match, then HKFA will impose disciplinary action based on each occurrence, including but not limited to:
  - 1) The team withdraws from the League during the period between its confirmation of participation and commencement of its first scheduled competition.
    - The registration fee and the deposit paid shall be confiscated.
  - 2) The team withdraws from the League after the first competition in the age group to which its team belongs.
    - The registration fee and the deposit paid shall be confiscated, and a fine of HK\$1,000 shall be paid.
  - 3) The team withdraws from the League after the first competition in the age group to which its team belongs and after its team plays the first scheduled competition.
    - The registration fee and the deposit paid shall be confiscated, and a fine of HK\$3,000 shall be paid.
  - 4) The team defaults in a scheduled competition within 24 hours before the competition.
    - Its team shall loss 0:3 and shall pay a fine of HK\$1,000\* and the expenses relevant to the competition.
  - 5) The team defaults in a scheduled competition on or before the date of the competition.
    - Its team shall loss 0:3 and shall pay a fine of HK\$1,000\* and the expenses relevant to the competition.
  - 6) The team defaults in the middle of a competition or resulting the competition unfinished.
    - Punishment shall be imposed subject to seriousness of the violation.

\* If a team continues to violate the General Rules, the Disciplinary Committee shall impose heavier punishment on the violating team.
21. Any request for re-schedule of a match due to special reasons must be made to the HKFA Secretariat in written notification and delivered to the Secretariat of HKFA at least fourteen (14) days before the scheduled date of the competition or within five (5) days after the competition fixtures are issued (whichever is earlier). HKFA will re-schedule the competition as requested

when the reasons indicated are due and proper. Each team is only entitled to make such request once in the season. Any request made after the time frame provided above will not be accepted. If the participating team forfeits or fails to send its team to take part in the competition, the team shall be deemed to have violated regulations and be punished by the Disciplinary Committee. To ensure a fair competition, any request for re-schedule of any matches scheduled in the last four (4) weeks of the League A and B, last two (2) weeks of the League C ,D and E and any matches of FA Cup/FA Shield shall not be approved except for severe weather and special reasons.

22. Failure to start or finish a competition due to a force majeure incident (such as unusual weather, floods, lightning, storm, fire, explosion, earthquake, sag, structure destruction, epidemics, Act of God, power breakdown or shortage, war, military action, riot, civil commotion, strike, business suspension or other industrial actions, terrorist attack, civil unrest, implementation of any law or regulation, state of anarchy, or lack of local or international power with authorization)(which delays or prevents anyone from performing the contents of the agreement) shall be handled in accordance with **Rule 23**. The date of the competition to be replayed will be decided by HKFA and shall not be affect other scheduled competitions.
23. If a competition cannot continue to the end of the completion time due to any possible reason, HKFA has the right to decide whether the competition is completed or needs to be replayed. All competitions to be replayed shall be done in accordance with the General Rules of the League and the latest Laws of the Game issued by International Federation of Association Football. The date to be replayed will be decided by HKFA and shall not affect other scheduled competitions.
24. Notices issued by HKFA are delivered to registered mail address, fax number and email address. The notice is fully given after HKFA has delivered or sent the notice in any of the aforementioned communication ways.
25. Any application for withdrawal from the game due to individual reasons shall be filed in written notification with HKFA. The due and proper reasons for such withdrawal shall be specified. The team shall still play the scheduled competitions before HKFA approval in written notification or the team shall be deemed for the absence from the competitions. Such absence will be considered by the Disciplinary Committee for proper punishment.

#### **Arrangement for Typhoon or Inclement Weather**

26. If Hong Kong Observatory issues Typhoon Signal No. 8 or above or Red or Black Rainstorm Warning two (2) hours prior the competition, the competition shall be cancelled and rescheduled.

If Hong Kong Observatory issues Typhoon Signal No. 3 or Thunderstorm Warning or the weather is unstable that the competition venue is closed two (2) hours before the competition, the team shall still report on site and wait for the decision of referees if the team does not receive any notice of from HKFA.

#### **Football Used in Matches and Basic Equipment**

27. HKFA shall arrange and decide the match venue and inform the playing teams. HKFA will provide match ball if there is commercial sponsorship obtained, if not, the match ball used in a competition shall be provided by team named first in the fixture.
28. 1) Every club that participates in the competitions organized by HKFA is required to register the colour of their kits (including shirts, shorts and socks). To avoid a clash in colours, **the outfield players and goalkeepers must have shirts and socks with at least 2 different colours**. When playing in the matches, the players of the playing teams shall wear shirts and socks which in the opinion of the referee is of a sufficient contrast that the refereeing officials shall be able to distinguish clearly between the two playing teams. The

following order of precedence shall apply for the selection of the choice of shirts and socks by the referee:

- i. 1st priority: the outfield players of the [home] team (except the goalkeeper);
- ii. 2nd priority: the outfield players of the [away] team (except the goalkeeper);
- iii. 3rd priority: the goalkeeper of the [home] team;
- iv. 4th priority: the goalkeeper of the [away] team.

Referee takes the final decision regarding to the kits colours of the teams.

- 2) A number must appear clearly on the shirt and shorts, and a player must wear a shirt and shorts with the same number printed on his shirt and shorts whenever he participates in a match. The location of the number on the shirt and shorts of the same team must be identical.
- 3) The number appearing on the shirt and shorts must be between from 1 to 99, and number 1 must be worn by a goalkeeper.
- 4) Apart from the goalkeeper, the shirts, shorts and stockings worn by the outfield players of the same team must be identical. The colours of the shirts and stockings (including the goalkeepers) of home kit and reserve kit must have a clear colour contrast of dark and light.
- 5) All advertisement regarding the equipment or jerseys of the football teams / players shall be done in accordance with the **2020-21 Equipment Regulation**.
- 6) Each team should prepare their home and away jersey in each of the competition for arrangement in line with above situation.
- 7) All protection equipment being used in matches by players, such as masks and goggles, a written request must be submitted forty-eight (48) hours before the kickoff of the match. All protection equipment shall only be used during the match after an approval of HKFA.

### **Player Registration and Qualification**

29. The registration procedure shall be completed in accordance with the “Rules of the Association” and the “HKFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players”. Except as otherwise provided herein, all regulations and rules provided by HKFA for player identity and team transfer shall be applicable to the competitions. Staff and players of the team shall complete the registration procedure through the online registration system “HK Football Connect”. The team has to log in the system to complete the registration.
30. Any request for the registration of the players must be submitted in writing on or before **31<sup>th</sup> May 2021**. Any late request will not be entertained. (for U18 age group, please refer to the registration window mentioned in Article.33).
31. **After players have completed the registration procedure, the team has to submit the Participating Players List (including at least 15 players) to the Player’s Registration Department seven (7) working days before the start of the first match of the League.** The team has to choose the qualified players from the Participating Players list and specify the player information on the list for Player’s Registration Department’s verification. Team which is unable to submit the Participating Players List (including at least 15 players) before deadline shall be deemed to have violated regulations and be punished by the Disciplinary Committee. **All teams can amend the Participating Players List at any time throughout the season according to the related regulations.**
32. The team will be issued a registration certificate of game supervisors and players after the Player’s Registration Department has verified the Participating Players List. Name, photo and



registration number of each game supervisor and players are presented in order to secure their qualification for participation in the match.

If the team fails to show the referee a valid registration certificate of game supervisors and players immediately prior to a match, the match shall not be started, and the team shall be deemed to have violated regulations and be punished by the Disciplinary Committee.

Each team is allowed to register no more than twenty-two (22) players (no more than twenty-four (24) players for U18) for the entire competition. Any player who has been registered in Premier League, First Division, Second Division, Third Division or Reserve Division must complete the transfer procedures prior to commencement of the game in order to participate in this competition.

33. Limitation on player registration with U18 age group regarding to FIFA regulations on professional players; there are two registration windows for the Competition. Each registration window shall open on a date as communicated by the HKFA. [Please refer to the relevant circular for details.](#)
34. A player that has been registered in Premier League, Reserve Division, First Division, Second Division or Third Division this season may also participate in the Youth Football League; **a player that has been registered in the Youth Football League cannot participate in the Premier Youth League.** However, the player has to participate on behalf of the same football club or football club under the youth training corporation program conducted by the same football club and the local authority (hereinafter referred to as the “Corporation Program”). (An agreement must be signed with the football club.) The League has the right to reject the player participating in the game without prior notice if it suspects the player’s qualification.

A new player that has no registration record this season must complete the registration procedure for youth players in the name of the member before participate any competition. Such player is only allowed to take part in the League.

35. If a player that has been enrolled to play Premier League wants to participate in this League as a youth player under the Corporation Program, he must register for the election test conducted by the district football club. Selected youth player will be qualified for the Corporation Program and is able to play on the team under the Corporation Program. In case the player registered to play Premier League does not register for the election test conducted by the district football club, he shall be deemed as a player unqualified for the Corporation Program. The player under the Corporation Program shall still play as the player of his original football club while representing the team under the Corporation Program. A player on the team that does not participate in the Corporation Program shall only represent the registered district team.
36. If the referee or the duty officer suspects any youth player’s identity before or during a match, he has the right to ask the player to show the ID certificate or other valid identification, such as passport, identification document, HKID card or other documents (i.e. supporting documents approved by the League) to prove his qualification and sign on the team list. If it is proved that a team sends an un-registered or ineligible player to play, the referees or HKFA duty officer has the right not to start the match or to terminate the match immediately. The case will refer to Disciplinary Committee according to disciplinary procedure.
37. Each Participating Club is responsible for and bears the onus of fielding only eligible Participating Players in a match. If it is proved that a team sends an un-registered or ineligible player to play, it shall be deemed to have violated regulations and the case will refer to Disciplinary Committee according to disciplinary procedure.
38. If a match is abandoned by the Referee for any other reason after kick-off and the match shall be re-scheduled, only the players that are submitted in the “Participating Players List” as of the date of the match are allowed to play the re-scheduled match.

## Limitations of Players Transfer

39. A youth player shall not represent more than one football club or team (only player who was fielded in the match will be counted) or participate in more than one age group during the same period.
40. When a player transfers from one football club to another, the football club from which the player transfers is required to deal with all such transfer procedures and shall send a written consent to the transfer of the player.
41. If a youth player is registered to another football club after commencement of this League and plays in Premier League, First Division, Second Division, Third Division or Reserve Division (i.e. a football club not participating in the Corporation Program), the player shall not be able to take part in any youth competitions in the same season.
42. If a player of a football club under the Corporation Program transfers to another club under the Corporation Program, the player shall still be able to play as the player on the team under the Corporation Program.
43. Being registered in the same club, a team could arrange a potential youth player into the higher age group in the league or Premier Youth League, the team must fill an application with the HKFA for such arrangement. (If the team is supported by a district football club, the team must acquire the consent of the Technical Department of HKFA before dealing with any transfer procedures.)
  - 1) In the Youth League, team could arrange a potential youth player into higher age group
    - The player shall not play in the age group where he originally plays during the same period when the player plays in the higher age group.
    - In the entire season, the player playing in the higher-level group may apply for being relegated to his original group (i.e the same group as he was in before promotion to the higher level)
    - In U18, team can apply to transfer a player to another team of the same club when a club successfully applied two teams. The player cannot play for the original team at this period. The player can apply for transfer to the original team (procedure is same as the arrangement done for the promotion to a higher level/relegation to lower level). When a player succeeds to apply transferring to another team of the same club, promoting/relegating to other age groups is not allowed.
  - 2) Team can arrange potential youth player into the Premier Youth League
    - The player shall not play in the Youth League where he originally plays during the same period when the player plays in the Premier Youth League.
    - Teams can promote a player to Premier League which player is eligible
    - In the entire season, the player playing in the Premier Youth League may apply for being relegated to this League to his original group (i.e. the same group as he was in before promotion to the higher level) once.

If there is a player vacancy in any age group in the Youth League, a player meeting the age requirement for the group may fill in the vacancy. (This is so called the substitution system, which is only applicable to district football clubs.)

## Ineligible Players

44. A player that is found with any of the following situations shall be deemed as ineligible player:
  - 1) The team fails to register the player in accordance with the Regulations of HKFA and Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players by FIFA.
  - 2) The player failed to be included the “Participating Players List” of the team.
  - 3) The name of the player is not in the team list (Form B) provided by HKFA.

- 4) Personal information given during referee inspection is inconsistent with that specified in the “List of Registered Players”.
- 5) A player disguises the player whose identity check has been completed to play a competition.
- 6) The player should have not played the competition due to any kind of suspension.

If a team allows any ineligible player to participate in a competition, the board of directors of HKFA or relevant committee shall impose proper disciplinary action in accordance with the Disciplinary Code, including but not limited to:

- Fine;
- Adjudicating the Club to have lost the Match by 0-3, or if the goal difference at the end of the Match in question is greater than 0-3, the result on the pitch is upheld or a replay of the Match; and
- Decision issued by the board of directors or relevant committee.

### **Registration of Game Supervisors**

45. Each team must enroll at least one up to seven (7) employees at the age of 21 or above to be the team supervisor(s). At least one supervisor must be a coach with class C or above assessed by Asian Football Confederation and registered with Hong Kong Football Association. A supervisor has to present for the entire competition. If before or during the match, either team has no supervisor presence, the referees will not start the match or they will terminate the match immediately. The team that has no supervisor appearance shall bear the consequence and responsibility. Each team official shall only enroll as game supervisor for one team in each age group.

It is the responsibility of the Game Supervisor to ensure that all the match documents required are correct, including but not limited to the Team List [Form B], the event supervisor and Registration Card of Game Supervisors and Players, etc. Game Supervisor shall sign and confirm to receive the red and yellow card records after the match.

46. **Each team official shall only register as game supervisor for one club in this competition.**
47. Any request for the registration of the Game Supervisors must be submitted in writing **on or before 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021**. Any late request will not be entertained. However, teams can amend the Game Supervisors from the list of registered team officials at any time throughout the season.

### **Team List (Form B)**

48. Before the competition begins, the Game Supervisor and the captain of each team must fill out Form B (teams could make copy of Form B, but cannot amend any content of Form B), which is issued by HKFA and shall be confirmed and signed by the game supervisor and the captain. Players in the competition and the registration number and jersey number of each player shall be specified in the Form. The Form together with the list of game supervisors and players shall be given to the referee for inspection during the provided period prior to the match. The referee and duty officer must:
  - 1) check the identity of each player to play the competition; and
  - 2) submit the team sheet player, substitution sheet and the referee’s report to HKFA within forty-eight (48) hours after the competition.

If the referee or the duty officer suspects any player’s identity, he has the right to ask the player to show the ID certificate and sign on the team list.

The team list shall specify the registration number of each player and the number printed on the player’s jersey, and the contents of the team sheet shall be confirmed by the game supervisor and the captain of the team by signing on the list prior to the match.

The names of assistant referees and any 4th official for the match shall be indicated in the referee's report.

### **Referees and Assistant Referees**

49. HKFA will appoint referees and assistant referees from the list of registered referees. If all or any referees fail to appear to perform required duties, the Secretariat may appoint, prior to the commencement of the match, other persons as it thinks fit to perform the duties required for referees or assistant referees.
50. If a referee fails to appear or is unable to perform his duties, the first assistant referee shall take charge of the work of the referee and the second assistant referee shall take the position of the first assistant referee. If there is a fourth official, the fourth official shall take the position of the second assistant referee. If there is no fourth official, an attempt to find a registered referee on the field shall be made, and the registered referee, if found, shall take the position of the second assistant referee. If there is no appropriate person found, a person remains a neutral role (i.e. a duty officer, a referee instructor or a referee assessor) shall be arranged to be the second assistant referee.
51. HKFA has the right to decide the remuneration to referees and assistant referees if necessary.
52. Unless the consent of the HKFA is acquired prior to a match, the match shall be played as scheduled. The referee on the site must report to HKFA any incident resulting in delay of the match and any lateness or absence of any assistant referee or oneself. The assistant referee who is late or absent must explain the reason.
53. The referee must send the referee's report, incidents regarding red cards resulting in players from the field, and the report on misconduct of relevant people, including but not limited to players, staff or team supporters to HKFA within 48 hours after the match.

### **Disciplinary Matters**

54. HKFA shall be wholly authorized for discipline matters. Serious incidents and misconducts of staff or players shall be considered by the Disciplinary Committee for proper punishment. Red cards and yellow cards are computed for this competition and will not influence competitions in other groups.

When a team official/player is cautioned by the referee showing a yellow card or is sent off from the field by the referee showing a red card, the team official/player will be subjected to the following rules:

- 1) If a team official/player is sent off from the field by the referee showing a red card or giving two (2) cautions (i.e. 2 yellow cards) in a competition, **the team official/player shall be automatically suspended from the next match to be played by his team.**
- 2) If a player is cautioned (with a yellow card) in a match and then be sent off from the field by the referee showing a red card for another misconduct in the same match, the player shall be automatically suspended from the next match to be played by her team, and the caution will remain accumulated.
- 3) If a player accumulates five (5) yellow cards (including any yellow cards carried forward from another season), the player shall be automatically suspended from the match to be played by her team following the match where she is obtained the fifth yellow card. In case of accumulated ten (10) yellow cards, the player shall be suspended for two (2) matches, and so on.
- 4) If a team official accumulates three (3) yellow cards, the team official shall be automatically suspended from the match to be played by his/her team following the match where he/she is

obtained the third yellow card. In case of accumulated six (6) yellow cards, the team official shall be suspended for two (2) matches, and so on.

- 5) All automatic suspensions imposed upon a player and team officials shall only perform such suspension in the same age group.

- 6) All red cards shall be dealt with in the scheduled period listed in the discipline rules. As for misconduct, the Secretariat shall inform in writing of the date that the misconduct is dealt with.
- 7) All automatic suspensions imposed upon a player shall be the administrative responsibility of the player's team. The team shall be responsible for ensuring that players are qualified for the match.
- 8) The team official and players upon whom a suspension is imposed shall perform such suspension in accordance with the decision made by the Disciplinary Committee.

If the team fails to implement the suspension of the player in accordance with regulations, the team will be judged to lose the related match which the player should not have taken part in, and the player shall still be suspended from the next match to be played by his team. Team shall be fined HK\$1,000 for the first time.

55. Suspensions in the Youth Football League shall be performed in this competition only, except for suspensions carried forward from the previous season.
56. Cautions for team official/player will not be carried forward to next season. Cautions accumulated upon the completion of the current football season shall be automatically cancelled.

#### **Matches Fail to Commence or Being Aborted**

57. If a match fails to commence or is aborted by either teams or either team due to a non-force majeure incident, this case will be deemed as a violation and be dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee.
58. If a player is suspended from the match that is aborted due to an incident and no replay is arranged, the suspension decision against the player shall be deemed to have been performed. In case there is a replay, the player shall be suspended from the replay in accordance with regulations.
59. Any yellow card or red card acquired and misconduct committed in an aborted competition shall be dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with regulations.

#### **Suspensions Carried Forward From the Previous Season**

60. If any suspension of a player is not performed in the Youth Football League at the end of this season, the suspension shall carry into the competition with the highest level that the player is entitled to participate in the next season. Levels of competitions are provided below in the order from the highest to the lowest level:

Premier League → Reserve Division → First Division → Second Division → Third Division → Youth Football League/Premier Youth League

For a registered Premier League player, suspensions carried forward from the previous season of the Youth League may be replaced by payment while the related procedures shall be completed at least forty-eight (48) hours before commencement of the first Premier League match that the player has to play.

- 1) Suspension from 1 to 5 Youth Football League matches carried forward from the previous season: HK\$1,000 for each match
- 2) Suspension from 6 to 10 Youth Football League matches carried forward from the previous season: HK\$2,000 for each match
- 3) Suspension from over 10 matches: The Disciplinary Committee will decide whether such suspensions shall be replaced by a fine or not.

The yellow cards accumulated in the Youth Football League will be cancelled after the end of the football season this season.

### **Penalties**

61. If a team / player fails to meet the requirements provided by this regulation or violates any rule, the Disciplinary Committee shall issue a decision for every violation. Decisions issued include but are not limited to the following:
- 1) Adjudicating the violating team to have lost the match by 0-3, or if the goal difference at the end of the match in question is greater than 0-3, the result on the pitch is upheld;
  - 2) Points accumulated by the team in the Division to be deducted;
  - 3) A fine of no more than HK\$20,000 to be paid by the violating team;
  - 4) Competition-related expenses to be paid by the violating team
  - 5) The violating player or staff on the team to be suspended from a competition or prevented from participating in any activity hosted or co-hosted by HKFA (Suspension may be extended to any competition governed by HKFA.);
  - 6) Replay; and
  - 7) Cancellation of the violating team or player's qualification for the game.

### **Protest, Claim or Complaint**

62. No protests can be made against the referee's decisions. Such decisions are final and not subject to appeal, unless otherwise stipulated in the HKFA Disciplinary Code. Any and all protest, claims or complaints in connection with a match shall be made in written notification and delivered together with a deposit of HK\$500 to the Secretariat within forty-eight (48) hours after the match. The protest, claim or complaint will be dealt with within seven (7) days after the receipt by HKFA. No protest, claim or complaint shall be withdrawn without the consent of HKFA. If the protest, claim or complaint is not successful, all or part of the deposit paid will be forfeited.

### **Appeal**

63. No appeal shall be made.

### **Trophies and Medals**

64. Trophies and medals shall be awarded in the following situations:

**League A:** Champion, first runner-up, second runner-up and third runner-up are awarded a trophy and twenty-six (26) medals.

**League B:** Champion, first runner-up, second runner-up and third runner-up are awarded a trophy and twenty-six (26) medals.

**League C, D & E:** Champion, first runner-up, second runner-up and third runner-up are awarded a trophy and twenty-six (26) medals.

**FA Cup:** Champion, first runner-up, second runner-up and third runner-up are awarded a trophy and twenty-six (26) medals.

\*The number of the medals awarded to champions and runners-up in U18 age group is twenty-eight (28).

HKFA shall decide the date, time and venue of the prize presentation ceremony. If any team or player refuses to receive a medal at the award ceremony, HKFA has the right to hold a discipline

meeting and issue a punishment decision. If a player is expelled from the match due to misconduct, HKFA has the right to withhold any medal to be awarded to the player.

### **Code of Ethics**

65. All participating clubs, its Officials and Players, Match Officials are responsible to comply with the FIFA, AFC or HKFA Code of Ethics and all relevant circulars and directives in force at the time of the Competition, and agree in particular to respect the fighting against discrimination, racism and match-fixing activities.

All participating clubs, its Officials and Players, Match Officials are responsible to ensure the fair play of all games. Any violated behavior will be examined by the Disciplinary Committee, or further examine by AFC or other related authorities.

### **Language**

66. The Chinese version (of the regulation) should have priority over the English version should there be any inconsistency or contradiction in between.

### **Modification and Interpretation of the Regulation**

67. The board of directors has the right to modify, add, delete and interpret any rule provided in this Regulation, and any participating football club / team shall not raise any objection to such modification, addition, deletion and interpretation.

**-- END --**

### **Attachment:**

*Attachment 1 – Match Arrangement Guidelines under Hot Weather Condition*

*Attachment 2 – Playing Format of U13&U14 Group Stage*



**Hong Kong Football Association**  
**2020-2021 Jockey Club Youth Football League**  
**Competition Regulation**

**Match Arrangement Guidelines under Hot Weather Condition**

In accordance with the match arrangements under hot weather by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), the Hong Kong Football Association is now developing guidelines for Youth Football League, Girls' Football League and Women's Football League matches under hot weather conditions which 'Cooling break' will be adopted.

**'Cooling break' procedures for match days**

1. The 'Very Hot Weather Warning' of The Hong Kong Observatory will be the official measurement used to determine whether cooling breaks shall be implemented. 'Cooling break' will be adopted if the 'Very Hot Weather Warning' is issued 30 minutes before the kick off time of the match.
2. At 30 minutes before kick-off, Duty Officer will notice referees and game supervisor of both teams the arrangement of 'Cooling break'.
3. 'Cooling break' of 2 minutes in duration will be implemented by the referee.
4. For the normal 90-minute matches, 'Cooling break' will be implemented at around 30th and 75th minute respectively; **For 80-minute matches**, 'Cooling break' will be implemented at around 20th and 60th minute respectively; And no 'Cooling break' for any matches **which is under 80-minutes or playing in 3 sessions**.
5. Time consumed for 'Cooling break' will be added into the additional time of the session respectively.

**'Cooling break' details**

1. The ball must be out of play for the break to commence.
2. The referee will signal the start of the break, informing both teams, assistant referees, 4th officials bench (if provided) and duty officer.
3. All players will go to their respective bench/ technical area and use ice and cool towels to cool down.
4. The referee will signal the conclusion of the break after which the match will restart at which play was stopped.

**Match days drinking procedures**

In general matches, players are able to have drinks during the stoppage of play. For matches which 'Cooling break' is adopted, players are also able to have drinks with below guidelines apart from the 'Cooling break':

1. Drinks/ beverages should be consumed during stoppage of play.
2. Consumption should take place at the touch line from the technical area of the team benches.
3. Bottles may be handed to the players along the touch line from the technical area in front of the team benches. It is forbidden to throw bottles onto the field of play.
4. Goalkeepers may keep a drink/beverage in a plastic bottle outside of the goal and off the field of play at least 1meter from the end line.

## Hong Kong Football Association 2020-2021 Jockey Club Youth Football League Competition Regulation

### Playing Format of U13 & U14 Group Stage

For U13 and U14 age group, it will be converted to a day league format to determine the eligibility for participation in League A, B, C, D and E.

### Playing Format

#### U13

- First Stage: Teams playing in U13 are divided into ten (10) groups (from Group A to J) by lot drawing. Each of the Groups comprise of four (4) teams. A total of forty (40) teams shall play under the single round robin system. First ranked team of each group & six (6) best second ranked teams shall qualify to Second Stage. Teams cannot qualify to second stage shall play in League C, D & E.
- Second Stage: Sixteen (16) qualified teams are divided into four (4) groups (from Group A to D) by lot drawing. Each of the Groups comprise of five (4) teams. A total of sixteen (16) teams shall play under the single round robin system. First two teams ranked of each group shall play in League A and the rest of the teams shall play in League B.

#### U14

Teams playing in U14 are divided into eight (8) groups (from Group A to H) by lot drawing. Each of the Groups comprise of four (4) teams. A total of thirty two (32) teams shall play under the single round robin system. First ranked team of each group shall qualify to League A. Second ranked teams shall qualify to Group B. Rest of the teams shall enter League C & D (by lot drawing)

### Match Duration

- 25-minutes for full match, no half time break.

### Point System

- The winner of a match shall be awarded three (3) points.
- Each team participating in a match which ends in a draw with 0:0 shall be awarded one (1) point. If the match is ends in a draw with 1:1 or above, each team shall be awarded two (2) points.
- No point for the losing team.

### Ranking System

- Participating teams' final positions in the league table shall be determined by the number of points obtained by their respective playing team in the Competition, the team having obtained the highest number of points being at the top of the table and the team having obtained the lowest number of points being at the bottom.
- If any two (2) or more playing teams have obtained the same number of points, the positions of the teams concern shall be determined as follows by order of priority:
  - 1) number of points obtained in the matches of the Competition between/among the teams concerned, higher or highest placed team shall be the team with the higher or highest number of points;
  - 2) goal difference, that is to say, the difference between the total number of goal scored by and against a team in the matches of the Competition between/among the teams concerned, and higher or highest placed team shall be the team with the higher or highest goal difference;
  - 3) number of goals scored by a team in the matches of the Competition between/among the teams concerned, and higher or highest placed team shall be the team with more or most goals scored;
  - 4) if, after having applied Art. 17.1 to 17.3, playing teams still have an equal ranking, Art. 17.1 to 17.3 are reapplied exclusively to the matches between the playing teams in question to determine their final rankings. If this procedure does not lead to a decision, Art. 17.5 to 17.8 apply;
  - 5) goal difference, that is to say, the difference between the total number of goal scored by and against a team in all its matches of the Competition, and higher or highest placed team shall be the team with the higher or highest goal difference;
  - 6) number of goals scored by a team in all its matches of the Competition, and higher or highest placed

- team shall be the team with more or most goals scored;
- 7) least number of yellow and red cards. Each team will receive points for receiving red and yellow cards as indicated below:
    - a. Each yellow card (1 point)
    - b. Each red card as a consequence of two yellow cards (3 points)
    - c. Each direct red card (3 points)
    - d. Each yellow card followed by a direct red card (4 points)
    - e. The team receiving the least number of points will be ranked the highest.
  - 8) drawing of lots.

### **Ranking System (Determining the best second-placed participating teams from groups)**

#### **Case 1: Where all groups consists of the same number of teams**

- Step 1: Identify the second-placed participating teams in each group
- Step 2: The best second-placed participating teams shall be determined as follows by order of priority:
  - 1) the team having obtained the highest number of points being at the top of the table and the team having obtained the lowest number of points being at the bottom.
  - 2) goal difference, that is to say, the difference between the total number of goal scored by and against a team in all its matches of the Competition, and higher or highest placed team shall be the team with the higher or highest goal difference;
  - 3) number of goals scored by a team in all its matches of the Competition, and higher or highest placed team shall be the team with more or most goals scored;
  - 4) least number of yellow and red cards. Each team will receive points for receiving red and yellow cards as indicated below:
    - a. Each yellow card (1 point)
    - b. Each red card as a consequence of two yellow cards (3 points)
    - c. Each direct red card (3 points)
    - d. Each yellow card followed by a direct red card (4 points)
    - e. The team receiving the least number of points will be ranked the highest.
  - 5) drawing of lots.

#### **Case 2: Where the number of teams in group varies**

- Due to the varying number of participating teams in each group, the second-placed participating teams in each group will have played a different number of matches. In order to ensure equality, all participating teams shall be compared across the same number of matches, the number of which shall be decided by HKFA
- In principle, the results between the second-placed participating teams and the bottom-placed participating team in the group shall be considered null and void.
- Step 1: Identify the second-placed participating teams in each group
- Step 2: The best second-placed participating teams shall be determined as follows by order of priority:
  - 1) the team having obtained the highest number of points being at the top of the table and the team having obtained the lowest number of points being at the bottom.
  - 2) goal difference, that is to say, the difference between the total number of goal scored by and against a team in all its matches of the Competition, and higher or highest placed team shall be the team with the higher or highest goal difference;
  - 3) number of goals scored by a team in all its matches of the Competition, and higher or highest placed team shall be the team with more or most goals scored;
  - 4) least number of yellow and red cards. Each team will receive points for receiving red and yellow cards as indicated below:
    - a. Each yellow card (1 point)
    - b. Each red card as a consequence of two yellow cards (3 points)
    - c. Each direct red card (3 points)
    - d. Each yellow card followed by a direct red card (4 points)
    - e. The team receiving the least number of points will be ranked the highest.
  - 5) drawing of lots.

### **Substitution**

- Each team may substitute players twice in a match. For each substitution, three (3) players (including the goalkeeper) at most are allowed to be substituted.